

## **Message from the Chief**

**Chief's Memo – February 20, 2006**

### ***Why the Strategic Growth Plan Is Good For CDF - \$215 Million Dollars Helps Firefighting Statewide***



Governor Schwarzenegger's comprehensive Strategic Growth Plan includes \$600 million in General Obligation bonds to fund critical public safety projects with \$215 million allocated for fire protection within CDF. This would target the replacement or relocation of old and deteriorated emergency response facilities for CDF, along with forest fire stations, air attack bases, and conservation camps. These facilities provide the first response "strike force" resources that are crucial for the state's line of defense against wildfires and other natural disasters. In addition, these initial responder resources are supported by a sophisticated communications system that is vital to the command and control aspect of the emergency response capability of CDF. Here are just a few of the crucial CDF needs that are addressed in the bond:

***Upgrade Forest Fire Stations*** – The bonds would help improve fire stations that are experiencing increasingly frequent and costly system failures that compromise operational effectiveness. A facility like Batterson Forest Fire Station requires relocation due to population growth and the addition of 17,000 acres to the state responsibility area (SRA). The site is located approximately four miles north of the town of Oakhurst on Highway 41. Response times from Batterson are slow due to the uphill climbs from the station. Relocating the Batterson to a more strategic location would significantly improve response times into strategic watersheds of Bass Lake and North Fork.

***Improve Air Attack Bases*** – Population growth into wildland areas continues to increase throughout the state. As you well know, the risk of significant numbers of structure losses has risen as a result. Rapid initial fire suppression and targeted suppression, utilizing air attack resources -- has become even more important in minimizing property damage and preventing loss of life. One site proposed for improvement is Hollister Air Attack Base, a primary fire control facility in the central coast fire protection system. The base is strategically located for fast initial attack to fires in high value areas of the Monterey Peninsula, Santa Cruz mountains, South San Francisco Bay area, southern fringes of the Oakland-Berkeley Hills and the remote areas of Monterey, Santa Clara, San Benito, Santa Cruz and the west sides of Fresno, Stanislaus, San Joaquin and Merced Counties. The total protection area for Hollister AAB is 3,758,000 acres. This is crucial to fire protection in California.

**Build and Improve Conservation Camps** – CDF is currently authorized to operate 39 Conservation Camps statewide that house nearly 4,000 inmates and wards. These camps are operated in conjunction with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) and the California Youth Authority (CYA). Through these cooperative efforts CDF is authorized to operate 196 fire crews year round. Fire crews make up the platoons of foot soldiers on the “front line” day and night when California experiences one of its many disasters. One camp that is in dire need of improvement is Baseline Conservation Camp, located in Tuolumne County near Jamestown, which houses approximately 130 level-1 inmates. In order to become fully functional, this camp needs new housing and maintenance facilities to make the camp even more efficient and able to deploy more quickly.

**Enhance Statewide Communication Facilities** –The proposed replacement of four CDF telecommunication facilities is a primary component in the mandated plan for the Department of General Services (DGS) to convert all telecommunication sites in the Public Safety Microwave Network (PSMN) to digital technology.

Please let me know if you share in my support of this proposal or any concerns you may have related to fire infrastructure in the state.

In addition to the Governor’s Strategic Growth Plan that will require voter support, Technical Services is in progress of planning, funding, designing or building a number of other infrastructure projects as part of CDF’s strategic plan or 5-year capital outlay plan. Some of these projects are partially funded or not yet funded. The list below is not in priority order, but identifies the projects they are working on:

Project	Description
1. Academy	Construct dormitory and expand mess hall
2. Alma HB	Replace facility
3. Altaville FFS	Replace facility
4. Batterson FFS	Relocate facility
5. Bautista CC	Replace modular buildings
6. Cuyamaca FFS	Relocate facility
7. Dew Drops FFS	Replace facility
8. Elk Camp FFS	Relocate facility
9. Hammond FFS	Relocate facility
10. Intermountain CC	Replace facility
11. Mendocino RUH	Replace auto shop
12. Miramonte CC	Replace facility
13. Nipomo FFS	Replace facility
14. Pacheco FFS	Replace facility
15. Rancheria FFS	Replace facility

16. Raymond FFS	Relocate facility
17. San Luis Obispo RUH	Replace facility
18. San Marcos FFS	Relocate facility
19. Santa Clara RUH	Replace auto shop
20. Statewide Phase III	Replace communications facilities
21. Statewide Phase IV	Replace communications facilities
22. Stevens Creek FFS	Replace facility
23. Twain Harte FFS	Replace facility
24. Usona FFS	Replace facility
25. Ventura YCC	Construct CCV apparatus building, shop/warehouse
26. Warner Springs FFS	Replace facility

Regards,



Ruben Grijalva, Chief  
Acting Director

### **Resource Management**

Giny Chandler, CDF's Chief Counsel, and our IT support group have established a server site which will act as the repository for e-mail records involving Pacific Lumber Company. Employees who have e-mail records will be asked to forward those records to the server. Access to the site will be limited and keyed to individual e-mail addresses. Units are in the process of identifying which employees may be subject to the request.

The Fort Bragg City Council adopted a resolution in support of Alternative "D" in the Jackson DEIR. Alternative "D" was developed to reflect the recommendations of the Citizen's Advisory Committee and among other things would limit the use of even-age management prescriptions and the use of herbicides.

The Board of Forestry voted to support the use of \$2.2 million in federal Legacy funding for the purchase of a conservation easement on the Iaquia Ranch near Arcata. Under the terms of the easement future management of the property will be limited to uneven-age silvicultural prescriptions, development will be precluded, and operations near streams will be limited. The ranch will remain a working forest. The conservation easement will be held in trust by CDF with monitoring conducted by a third party and will be funded by endowment.

### **Aviation Management**

The aircraft that worked the wildland fires in Southern California last week accumulated over 55 hours of flight time, with the 7 airtankers delivering over 44,400 gallons of retardant.

As part of this winter's maintenance at McClellan, Traffic Collision Alerting Devices (TCAD's) have been installed on three S-2T tankers and five OV-10 air attack airplanes, bringing the total to 19 aircraft. DynCorp maintenance personnel are working hard to complete the install on all fixed wing aircraft this year.

AMU is working with the California Interagency Military Helicopter Coordination Group to assist in the annual training and recertification of the California National Guard helicopter assets. This May's training, conducted out of Fresno, will simulate an activation and deployment on an incident and involve more than 180 military and fire fighting personnel and at least 14 aircraft.

In addition, the Call When Needed (CWN) list of emergency fire helicopter services has been compiled, with the application drafted and set for June 2006 distribution.

### **Technical Services**

Fort Jones in the Siskiyou Unit is substantially complete and CDF has taken occupancy as of February 1. Landscaping, telecommunications, an emergency generator and building, and a small administration building will be completed by the end of this summer. The project was initially funded in 1999. The current approximate value of this work is \$2,734,000 and does it not include interest and administration fees for the interim loan or the Lease Revenue Bond sale.



Acting Director Grijalva and State Finance Director Mike Genest at a recent briefing at the Grass Valley Emergency Command Center in the Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit.